

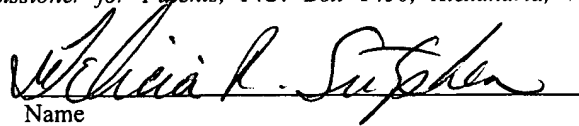


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Name

Confirmation No. 9619

Applicant : Timothy Dawson
Application No. : 09/917,192
Filed : July 27, 2001
Title : DOOR MODULE

Grp./Div. : 3634
Examiner : Jerry E. Redman

Docket No. : 46918/M521

APPELLANT'S REPLY

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
August 15, 2006

Commissioner:

In the Examiner's Answer mailed June 16, 2006, the Examiner has again repeated verbatim the language from the last two Office actions. As the points raised in the Office actions were fully addressed in the Appellant's Brief, no rebuttal is deemed necessary.

On page 5 of the Examiner's Answer, however, the Examiner for the first time alleges that "it appears that the appellant is relying on a method of forming (a single piece of plastic when formed/extruded/molded has a portion with long glass fibers and a portion substantially 'free' of long glass fibers) and not the apparatus per se." Appellant respectfully disagrees. All of Appellant's pending claims relate to the structure of the apparatus as an end product, and do not rely on a method of forming the apparatus. As discussed at length in Appellant's Brief, neither of the cited references teaches or suggests a door module with: 1) a substantially rigid portion with long glass fiber reinforced plastic; a substantially elastic portion substantially free of long glass

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fibers 2) formed in one piece with the substantially rigid portion; and 3) of the same plastic as the substantially rigid portion. The limitation "formed in one piece" refers to the form of the end product.

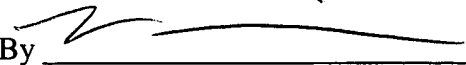
Moreover, claim 33 recites "the door module comprises: a single piece of plastic having a substantially rigid portion and a substantially elastic portion; the substantially rigid portion having long glass fibers within the plastic as reinforcement, and the substantially elastic portion substantially free of long glass fibers." The use of the term "form" is avoided entirely.

Contrary to the assertions of the Examiner, none of Applicant's pending claims rely on a method of "extruding," "molding," or "forming," a door module, but rather by the novel and unobvious structure (i.e., form) of the door module itself. The Examiner's analysis is flawed because it fails to address this basic issue.

In view of the arguments made in Appellant's Brief and this Reply, reversal of the rejections is urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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